

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 26, 2008

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## ***Mayor Healy to Celebrate the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Philippine-American Friendship Day Festival & Parade Festival Headliners are Jessa Zaragoza and Mig Ayesa and the 2008 Filipino Idol Competition***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and the **Division of Cultural Affairs** present the **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade & Festival** on **Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. The parade will commence at 10:00am at the Saint Peter's College Armory parking lot, located between Jordan and Montgomery Streets and will make its way downtown to Exchange Place with the festival to follow.

“Bring the whole family for a day of fun and festivities enriched with the Filipino tradition,” said **Mayor Healy**. “This annual event showcases the rich history and culture of the Filipino community in Jersey City, and adds to the vibrancy of our ‘Tapestry of Nations’ Ethnic Festivals.”

Headlining the event are two high-powered artists, **Jessa Zaragoza**, popularly known in Philippine showbiz as the “Phenomenal Diva” and the talented **Mig Ayesa**, who became a household name in the Philippines through his sounds of rock, funk and soul.

“Filipino-Americans are a thriving people who have risen to levels of prominence and respect,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The Filipino community contributes to the economic fiber of Jersey City and plays a vital role in areas of public service, business, the arts and entertainment. I encourage everyone to partake in the celebration of their heritage.”

The festivities include traditional folk music, a flea market, tons of delicious food, colorful costumes, and a health fair. One of the highlights of this event is the talent search for the **2008 “Filipino Idol”** which is open to young and talented Filipino-American youths between the ages of 16 and 30.

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Nine finalists will compete for the title and winners are selected by a panel of judges during the festival will receive a first place prize of \$1000, second place \$700, third place \$500 and runners-up will receive \$100.

This event is sponsored by the City of Jersey City and the Division of Cultural Affairs in conjunction with the Philippine-American Friendship Committee, Inc., a community development organization that enriches the quality of life of families, especially those in need. PAFCOM promotes inclusiveness, opportunities, inter-culturalism, advocacy and intergenerationalism.

**The event is free and open to the public. For more information on the Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade & Festival, contact the division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.**

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**

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